

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/639,478

Examiner

Nicholas D. Rosen

Applicant(s)

CAREY, ROBERT FRANKLIN

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Appeal Brief of January 13, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-16 and 18-20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 7/10/2003.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-20 have been examined.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Yufeng Ma on February 18, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 is hereby amended as follows: In the first line of claim 1, "A method for selecting securities" is hereby amended to read, "**A method, utilizing a computer, for selecting securities**". At the end of claim 1, the period after "selected securities" is hereby replaced by a semicolon, and followed by "**wherein at least one of the steps of collecting, ranking, and selecting is carried out by a computer.**"

Claim 14 is hereby amended to read:

14. A computer-readable medium bearing a computer program containing instructions which, when implemented by a general purpose computer, cause the computer to carry out the steps of:

collecting the dividend yield and buyback ratios of said group of available securities;

ranking at least some of the available securities according to predetermined criteria comprising a predetermined relationship between said collected dividend yield and said collected buyback ratios to form a group of ranked securities, the predetermined relationship comprising the magnitude of the sum of said collected dividend yields and said collected buyback ratios; and

selecting at least some of the ranked securities having the highest magnitude of the sum of said collected dividend yields and said collected buyback ratios to form a group of selected securities.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, and 4-13 are allowed.

Claim 14 is allowed on the same grounds.

Claims 15, 16, and 18-20 are allowed on the same grounds.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Fried (U.S. Patent 6,035,286), discloses a method for selecting securities from a group of available securities for an investment portfolio, the method comprising: collecting the dividend yields and buyback ratios (column 2, lines 8-22; column 4, lines 17-25); and ranking at least some of said available securities according to predetermined criteria comprising a predetermined relationship to said collected buyback ratios to form a group of ranked securities (column 4, lines 35-57). There is

prior art in ranking securities by dividend yield, notably the article, "Dow Dogs Will Have Their Day, Fans Say Critics Call Strategy Overused, Outdated Dogs of 1997 Lost Their Bite," hereinafter "Dow Dogs," which teaches that buying back stock has become a common substitute for paying dividends. However, there is no teaching or motivation in Fried, "Dow Dogs," or other articles referring to the "Dogs of the Dow" strategy for portfolio selection that the predetermined criteria comprise a predetermined relationship between dividend yields and buyback ratios, the predetermined relationship comprising the magnitude of the sum of collected dividend yields and collected buyback ratios. Summing collected dividend yields and collected buyback ratios in this context appears to be non-obvious, except in hindsight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Leistensnider et al. (U.S. Patent 6,839,685) disclose a method for creating a portfolio of stock equities.

Dunagan, et al. ("Investing for Dividend Growth") and Hardy ("Get with Value") disclose earnings per share, or earnings paid out, but do so only in the context of dividends, without application to stock buybacks.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas D. Rosen, whose telephone number is 703-305-0753, which is scheduled to change to 571272-6762 on or about April 13, 2005. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins, can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nicholas D. Rosen
NICHOLAS D. ROSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

February 18, 2005